

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/040,796

Examiner

Roy M. Punnoose

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Art Unit

2877

am

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to letter received 12/24/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-8 are allowable.

Claims 1 and 8 are allowable because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method of locating a football on a field of play and determining whether a first down has been achieved pursuant to the rules of the game comprising the steps of providing at least one portable display device having a micro-controller and an associated system memory, a transceiver for sending and receiving wireless data and an operator interface, and, placing a reflector proximate the nose of said football when said football is resting at a first and second locations to reflect a light beam from a measuring device and determining whether a first down has been achieved based on comparing the first and second calculated positions, in combination with the rest of the limitations of respective claims.

2. Claims 2-5 are allowable because they are dependent on independent claim 1 or an intermediate claim.

3. Claim 6 is allowable because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an apparatus for locating a football on a field of play and determining whether a first down has been achieved pursuant to the rules of the game comprising a distance measuring device having a means for generating a light pulse, a means for detecting the light pulse when reflected, a means for measuring the time elapsed between sending a light pulse and detecting the reflected light pulse, a computer means for calculating the position of a target relative to said distance measuring device, and a transceiver for sending and receiving data

Art Unit: 2877

capable of communication with a portable display device, in combination with the rest of the limitations of said claim.

4. Claim 7 is allowable because it is dependent on independent claim 6.
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion.***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Examiner Roy M. Punnoose** whose telephone number is **571-272-2427**. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

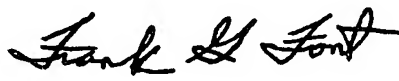
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the applicant can reach his **Supervisory Patent Examiner, Frank G. Font**, at 571-272-2415.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a **general nature** or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1585.

**Roy M. Punnoose**  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2877  
March 07, 2004



---

**Mr. Frank G. Font**  
Supervisory Patent Examiner